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REMARKS


The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(t) and required that the applicants renumber the drawings in view of the cancellation of Fig. 2 and Fig. 4. The applicants have done so. The applicants have submitted red-inked sketches of the required changes to the drawings.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention. The applicants have amended claims 1 through 3 in order to clarify the step of "adding sodium acetylide" with the limitation of "in excess of stoichiometry."

The applicants now believe that their application is in condition for allowance and request a speedy action to that end.

Dated: January 13, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


W. Edward Johansen
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